

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau

529272

(43) International Publication Date  
8 April 2004 (08.04.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2004/029882 A1**(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **G07B 17/00**

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/EP2003/010731

(22) International Filing Date:

26 September 2003 (26.09.2003)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

60/414,298 26 September 2002 (26.09.2002) US

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **NEO-POST INDUSTRIE SA** [FR/FR]; 113, rue Jean-Marín Naudin, F-92220 Bagneux (FR).

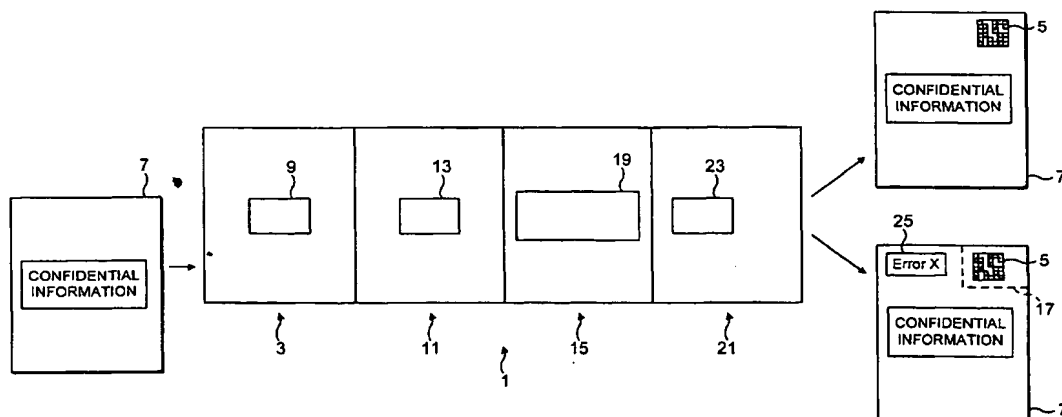
(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **MATTERN, James, Michael** [US/US]; 95 Gaylord Mountain Road, Bethany, CT 06524 (US).(74) Agent: **BODEN, Keith, McMurray**; Fry Heath & Spence LLP, The Gables, Massetts Road, Horley, Surrey RH6 7DQ (GB).(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).**Published:**

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: ITEM HANDLING SYSTEM AND METHOD



(57) Abstract: An item handling system for and method of handling items in an item stream, the system comprising: a validation unit for validating an element containing an authentication code on each item in an item stream, wherein an item is assigned as being spoiled where the element does not satisfy at least one validation criterion; and a sorting unit for separating spoiled items from the item stream.